AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A thermal insulating material made of non-woven fabric including multiple types of fiber, comprising:

a matrix fiber;

a heat-melting fiber, said matrix fiber and said heat-melting fiber being mixed together to form a composite of the thermal insulating material; and

a substantially continuous thin film ~~formed by said~~ of heat-melting fiber ~~being~~ fused ~~on a~~ at the surface of said thermal insulating material.

2. (currently amended) A thermal insulating material ~~having two or more~~ comprising a stack of at least two card webs, ~~each including multiple types of fiber, stacked one on top of another, wherein~~ each of said card webs ~~includes~~ containing:

a matrix fiber,

a heat-melting fiber, said matrix fiber and said heat-melting fiber being mixed together to form a composite of the thermal insulating material, and

a substantially continuous thin film ~~formed by said~~ of heat-melting fiber ~~being~~ fused ~~on a~~ at the surface of each of said card webs,

each of said card webs having said heat-melting fibers fused together within the card web, [[and]] whereby said card webs ~~being~~ are integrated by the fusing of said heat-melting fibers within the respective card web and between said card webs.

3. (currently amended) The thermal insulating material according to claim 2, ~~which does not conduct~~ wherein heat ~~easily~~ is not readily conducted in [[a]] the direction in which said card webs are stacked.

4. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a thermal insulating material, comprising the steps of:

mixing a matrix fiber with a heat-melting fiber;

forming mixed fibers into a card web; and

heating ~~a~~ the surface of said card web to fuse the heat-melting fiber on the surface of said card web to form a substantially continuous thin film on the surface of said card web.

5. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a thermal insulating material in which two or more card webs, each including multiple types of fiber, are stacked, comprising the steps of:

mixing a matrix fiber with a heat-melting fiber;

forming mixed fibers into a card web;

heating ~~a~~ the surface of said card web to fuse said heat-melting fiber on the surface of said card web to form a thin film on the surface of said card web;

stacking two or more of said card webs having undergone the heat treatment in the step of forming said thin film; and

fusing the heat-melting fiber inside said two or more stacked card webs ~~stacked~~ and fusing the heat-melting fiber between said card webs to integrate said card webs.

6. (NEW) The method of claim 5, wherein the fusing of the heat-melting fiber comprises a uniform heating of the stacked card webs.

7. (NEW) The thermal insulating material of claim 1, wherein the heat melting fiber has a lower melting point than the matrix fiber.

8. (NEW) The method of claim 4, wherein the heat melting fiber has a lower melting point than the matrix fiber.